



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NOAA Fisheries Establishes the HMS International Trade Permit and Reporting Requirements for Monitoring of Tuna and Swordfish Trade

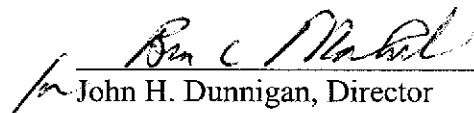
In accordance with the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, Tuna Conventions Act of 1950, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, NOAA Fisheries has modified its international trade tracking programs to implement recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and establish a new international trade permit for import, export, or re-export of bluefin tuna, Pacific bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, frozen bigeye tuna, and swordfish.

The final rule establishes the Highly Migratory Species International Trade Permit (HMS ITP) to improve administration of HMS management programs. This permit is necessary for all dealers involved in international trade of covered HMS species. Bluefin tuna and swordfish trade are currently covered by other permits, and these activities would be consolidated with the HMS ITP.

The final rule also requires that trade-tracking statistical documents accompany all imports and/or exports of frozen bigeye tuna, and fresh and frozen swordfish and southern bluefin tuna. A re-export certificate is required for re-exports of these species, and has been added to the existing bluefin tuna statistical document program. Export and re-export documentation must be validated. This program replaces the existing swordfish certificate of eligibility.

These regulations will become effective on July 1, 2005. Additional information will be provided to dealers with swordfish and Atlantic tunas dealer permits in the near future, or may be obtained from Dianne Stephan, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries (F/SF1), NOAA Fisheries, One Blackburn Dr, Gloucester, MA 01930; phone 978/281-9397.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to HMS dealers to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register.


John H. Dunnigan, Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries

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Date



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